

THE LABOR WORLD.

Items of Interest to the Working People.

Local Matters and Happenings of Interest to All—Something to Think Over.

From political economists call interest the reward of abstinence. A writer in the *Review* shows us that if a man should have commenced on the birthday of Christ and have saved \$1 a week every week since, he would have as the result of his abstinence for eighteen centuries the sum of \$97,000. But if he could in that year have by some "deal" cleared \$100, and then put it at interest at 12 per cent, and reinvested the interest, he could, in 167 years only, without any abstinence or thrift, have a fortune of \$8,467,500. So much for interest vs. thrift.

But the denial by socialists that interest is right, and the similar belief of many workingmen who are not socialists, is based upon ignorance of the natural law upon which interest rests. Interest for the use of capital is just as natural and right as wages for the exertion of labor. Capital is that part of wealth which is devoted to the creation of more wealth. It is stored up labor, although it may not always be the labor of the capitalist himself. It is the tool which enables labor to exert itself more productively, and is entitled to its share of the increased product. If through the investment of \$10,000 in machines for making shoes 100 men are able to produce 100,000 shoes as before, certainly a proportion of that increased production should go to the capitalist who furnished the machines. Much of the popular confusion in regard to the rightness of interest for the use of money arises out of the mistaken idea that money is wealth, when it is only the representative of wealth—the medium by which one form of wealth may be exchanged for any other. If it is wrong to charge for the use of \$1,000 in money it is equally wrong to ask rent for a house costing \$1,000, or any profit for \$1,000 worth of goods loaned to any one for a year, or any increase for the use of a flock of sheep or herd of cattle for a year. All laws which attempt to prevent usury by fixing the rate of interest are as futile as laws which would try to regulate wages, rents or profits. The rate of interest is subject to the law of supply and demand as much as is the price of goods or of labor. Interest much in excess of the normal rate is in the nature of insurance for the risk of loss.

Experience in Switzerland proved that the initiative and referendum alone, without proportional representation worked unsatisfactorily. The injustice caused by majority representation brought about the Ticino rebellion not long ago, and proportional representation was, as a result of that disturbance, adopted in Switzerland. While the present agitation in favor of the initiative and referendum in this country is good and while that reform may be desirable, proportional representation is even more necessary. It would prevent to a considerable extent that unfair advantage which majorities sometimes take of a minority even when that minority represents a large number of persons.

The Labor party in Queensland has succeeded in electing eighteen members to the new parliament.

The strike of the firemen of Havenport's sugar refinery again calls public attention to the inhuman sacrifice of human lives on the altar of monopolistic greed. The work of the firemen is most exhausting. It is carried on through long hours day and seven days a week in a temperature ranging from 130 degrees upward. Five hundred men were overcome with the heat last week and 200 miserably paid workmen were thrown out of work. The firemen in the Brooklyn refinery also struck. These factories are members of the Sugar Trust, and their managers are not worrying any over the situation. Said one of the officials: "What do we care. We will get these men or others to do work. Of course we can't make sugar, but if we were to thoroughly shut down for two months, then the price of sugar would be raised a point or two and we would make money instead of losing it."

Of course the men will win the strike, because there are thousands ready to take their poorly paid and exhausting jobs. What possible relief is there for such a situation as this, except in disbanding the great army of the unemployed, by opening for them more opportunities for labor? This would accomplish what anti-trust laws can never hope to do.

Labor organizations lose half their effectiveness through internal strife and jealousy of one another. Instead of being thoroughly united in an effort to uplift labor, they are too often at loggerheads with one another, and the advantages of numbers which others have secured, and belittling the work which a sister organization has accomplished. When capital organizes for mutual protection or relief, personal differences are sunk and the association stands as a unit against all assaults. Union is strength, and this is never more true than in organized labor.

Another cause for the failure of labor organizations is that they too often get into the hands of politicians who use the unions to get them into office. Such men have no real interest in the cause of labor; their chief anxiety is to get office and they use the labor organizations for this purpose. It is quite a time that many of the reforms demanded by labor must come through legislative enactment, secured largely through the power and influence of labor organizations. But this is quite a different thing from an organization using the influence to help some glib-tongued labor leader into a high office.

An amusing instance of the power of the land owner is being circulated, relating how a colored man owning fourteen acres of land near the center of the tract Mr. Vandewater desires to turn into a baronial manor, has been able to balk the millionaire's ambition until a princely sum is paid for the patch. This illustrates the advantage of a land owner over a money owner.

All the employees of the South Australian government railways have been put on short time, which means of course, low wages.

Large numbers of men belonging to the building trades are leaving the city and going east. Most of them are going to points east of St. Louis as the depression seems to affect the building trades most seriously west of the Mississippi river. Not many men are coming, and those that do are only working their way eastward.

The report of the washout on the Rio Grande Western railway and the published statement that a large force of men would be put to work repairing the break sent several hundred men down their looking after jobs. They were disappointed, as only a small number of men were employed in the work of repair.

The execution of the Building Trades' congress to Salt Lake on Labor Day, September 4, promises to be a very interesting occasion. Upwards of thirty-five prizes will be offered for winners in various contests of skill and speed. Among them

is a handsome gold medal for the best trick bicycle riding, and a gold medal to the most graceful lady rider. In addition there will be boat races, swimming matches, foot races and addresses by prominent local speakers.

I asked a man who applied to me for work this week why he did not go to Dakota, as press dispatches stated that farmers were unable to get men to work in the harvest fields. "I just came from there," he said. "I read the same dispatch in a Chicago paper three weeks ago, and went through Minnesota and Dakota, but the country is full of idle men, and I only got two days' work. Thousands of men flocked into that country the beginning of harvest, and there are three men for every job." Seekers for work can govern themselves accordingly.

The Denver members of labor organizations propose to make an experiment in co-operative housekeeping. A company with a capital of \$30,000 is being formed.

There is one good thing about hard times. They set people to thinking who would otherwise take no interest in questions of equity. It is for the molders of public opinion to set them thinking in the right direction.

Twelve hundred members of bona fide labor unions are holding public office in Great Britain. Forty of them are members of county councils, and sixty are appointed magistrates.

Another Belief Blasted. Science has disproved the rural belief that thunder sours milk. It is now known that the souring results from a fungus growth, and that this fungus is peculiarly fatal to nursing children. The old time rural belief was that the concussion from thunder acted mechanically upon the milk and first soured and then solidified it. The theory is a plausible one, easily derived from observing one set of facts, without knowing about the existence of others more important to the situation. It happens that milk does sour during or just after thunderstorms, because the atmospheric conditions then prevailing are usually of a kind favorable to the rapid development of the fungus growth that sours milk.—*New Albany Ledger*.

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It is an agony of agonies.
A torture of tortures.
It is an itching and burning of the skin almost beyond endurance.
It is thousands of pin-headed vesicles filled with an acrid fluid, ever forming, ever bursting, ever flowing upon the raw excoriated skin.
No part of the human skin is exempt.
It tortures, disfigures and humiliates more than all other skin diseases combined.
Tender babies are among its most numerous victims.
They are often born with it.
Sleep and rest are out of the question.
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If CUTICURA did no more than cure Eczema, it would be entitled to the gratitude of mankind.
It not only cures but
A single application is often sufficient to afford instant relief, permit rest and sleep, and point to a speedy cure.
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"It'll be damned if we do it!" was the answer of the sugar king who had accumulated millions from the sweat of his slaves. As a result, one hundred firemen and helpers quit work and 2,000 miserably paid workmen were thrown out of work. The firemen in the Brooklyn refinery also struck. These factories are members of the Sugar Trust, and their managers are not worrying any over the situation. Said one of the officials: "What do we care. We will get these men or others to do work. Of course we can't make sugar, but if we were to thoroughly shut down for two months, then the price of sugar would be raised a point or two and we would make money instead of losing it."

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